

SELECTMEN'S MEETING – November 8, 2010

Present: Richard Bielefield, John J. Strasser, Margo Connors, Jennifer Gaudette

Guests: Nick DeMayo, Kathleen Lewis, Matt Chagnon, Rich Chagnon (PSNH), Brian Bosse (NE Utilities), Hugh Hawkins, Jim Dannis, Luther Kinney, Jody Hodgdon, Sandra Morton, Rufus Perkins, John Colony, Mark Lindberg, David Van Houten, Mark Russell, Ken King, Chris Thayer, Peter Anderson, Carl & Nancy Martland, Kim & George Stroup, Rebecca Brown, Katie Burt (Littleton Courier), Leslie & James Drew

Correspondence was read and acted upon.

The Selectmen's Office will be closed on November 11, 2010 in observance of the Veterans' Day Holiday. The Selectmen's Office will also be closed on November 18th for the Local Government Conference and November 25th in observance of Thanksgiving.

The Selectmen approved the use of the Crapo Building by the Gale River Cooperative Preschool on November 19, 2010.

The Selectmen signed the Deputy Fire Warden appointments as submitted by Chief Allan Clark.

The Selectmen met with PSNH representatives KATHLEEN LEWIS, MATT CHAGNON, RICH CHAGNON and BRIAN BOSSE of NE Utilities for an overview of the Northern Pass Project. The project is in the initial stage as an agreement between HQ Hydro Renewable Energy, Northeast Utilities (PSNH parent company) and NSTAR has just been signed. According to the presenter Brian Bosse, the Northern Pass Project will provide renewable energy to NH and is in response to NH's Climate Action Plan,(recommends 67 actions to reduce gas emissions 80% below 1990 levels by 2050) the regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (sets standards for reducing carbon dioxide emissions from power plants in 10 Northeast/Mid-Atlantic states) and NH's Renewable Portfolio Standards (requires NH utilities to purchase specific types and amounts of locally produced renewable energy 25% by 2025. Direct current transmission line and facilities will deliver 1,200 MW of renewable, low carbon electricity to parts NH and NE. The benefits include providing a reliable source of renewable energy at competitive prices for the long term, supporting state and regional clean air goals, increasing local tax bases and providing 1,100 to 1,300 jobs over three years. Major components of the project include a conventional direct-current transmission line about 140 miles long from Quebec to central New Hampshire, construction of a converter terminal in Franklin NH and construction of a 40 mile long 345 kV alternating current line from Franklin to Deerfield NH. Department of Energy will be scheduling public hearings in Grafton County in 2011. Land owners with easements will be contacted by PSNH. Preliminary route is 7.3 miles through Sugar Hill in existing ROW. Structure heights will vary depending on terrain. The wider the ROW the lower the height of the structure. According to PSNH every new mile of transmission line adds approximately 2.5 million to a community's local tax base. Questions were accepted from the audience and included the following subjects:

Health Risks – Project developers will address magnetic fields

Burying Lines – Cost prohibitive

Would new line be in addition to existing line? – Yes and would run adjacent.

Height – Existing towers 45'-70' Proposed could be 90' or higher

Herbicides – Didn't think that they would be used on vegetation.

Smart Grid – Not part of the smart grid

Easements – Would like the Town to advise landowners on easement issues

NHECOOP – does not impact strictly PSNH

3 Dimensional Model – Not yet, middle of next year
ROW Widening – Will know next year where
Cost Benefit – why not use existing DC line through Vermont – line is full

Questions please call 1-800-286-7305 or visit www.northernpass.us

MR. BIELEFIELD made a motion to accept the minutes of November 1, 2010, seconded by MR. STRASSER. The motion was approved unanimously.

MR. BIELEFIELD made a motion AT 6:45 PM to move to non-public session to discuss legal business and a welfare request, seconded by MR. STRASSER.

MR. STRASSER made a motion to seal the minutes of the non public session and adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM, seconded by MR. BIELEFIELD. The next regular scheduled meeting will be on Monday, November 15, 2010 at the Carolina Crapo Building at 6:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer P. Gaudette
Administrative Assistant